

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 17-18 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

More preferably, the voltage generation ~~mean~~ means includes an amplification circuit 22b having a power source terminal for receiving drive voltage from the power source (see a power source terminal of FIG. 3(B) to which, e.g., 12 V is input), a non-inverted input terminal (+) for receiving a variably set input voltage, and an inverted input terminal (-) and an output terminal which are connected to each other (see an inverted input terminal (-) and an output terminal of FIG. 3(B), which are electrically connected to each other via a feed back resistance); and the clamp means includes a diode ~~22b~~ 22d which is connected to a node between the inverted input terminal and the output terminal and which enters a conductive state when a voltage higher than the activation voltage is applied to the nitrogen oxides detection cell, to thereby clamp and limit the voltage applied to the nitrogen oxides detection cell to the activation voltage or less.